(b) the number of colleges identified as centres of excellence in Karnataka; and

(c) the amount of grant proposed to be given to these Universities and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC has selected Karnataka University, Dharwad as "Centre with Potential for Excellence" in Polymer Science under the scheme of "Centres with Potential for Excellence". A grant of Rs. 5.00 crores has been released by UGC to the University, during March, 2002. The UGC has invited the proposals for identifying the colleges as centres of excellence.

Meeting of UNESCO

1940. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO has held their meet in Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, the agenda of the meet and salient observations made by the participant countries in the field of education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, sir. The third meeting of the High Level Group on Education For All (EFA) was co-hosted by India and UNESCO from 10th to 12th November, 2003. Sixteen countries participated in this meet.

(b) The main agenda of this meet was to discuss:

(i) Review of progress on EFA goals set in Dakar;

(ii) Action agenda for achieving gender goals;

(iii) National planning and policy reform;

(iv) International action for support and financing of EFA; and

(v) Challenges and opportunities: The path ahead.

The salient observations made by the participating countries in the field of education, *inter-alia*, included:

(i) All participating countries agreed that there was a need to set up efforts for girls' education to achieve the gender equality at primary stage by 2005 and the gender parity goal by 2015;

(ii) Many of the participating countries agreed that the projections made and inferences drawn in the Global Monitoring Report on Education For All-2003 were based on old data. There was call for the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) to fine tune their estimation methods to include updated survey data and not wait for disaggregated census data. It was felt that UIS also needs to enhance its capacity for analysis and forecasting so that the conclusions drawn by it can be more realistic.

(iii) Donor countries and international agencies should fulfil their commitments made at Dakar and Monterrey. This referred to the need to substantially step up their Official Development Assistance (to reach 0.7% of their GNP) and increase the allocation therefrom to Elementary Education.

Changes in curricula and course contents of IIM

1941. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to carry out sweeping changes in the curricula and course contents of the Indian Institute of Management, throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the resources crunch are one of the major reasons for the change; and

(d) whether Government are aware that the revision of the course contents etc. might adversely affect the quality of management education and if so, preventive steps proposed to be taken to arrest the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.